

Dog stabilized after being shot with arrow

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ALTON - The seriously wounded dog that had her abdomen punctured by an arrow not only survived surgery but appeared quite alert Friday after being transferred to a 24-hour care facility.

The dog, who has been identified as Shelby, was picked up Thursday morning near Wenzel Road in Godfrey. Authorities from Madison County Animal Control contacted Jackie Spiker and Kim Lee of Hope Animal Rescues in Alton to ask whether they could help the 4-year-old Shetland sheepdog.

"She's a really, really sweet girl," Lee said. "She has even been giving kisses to the doctors who have been trying to help her."



Weighing between 25 and 30 pounds, Lee said that Shelby is a small dog and that they decided to keep her original name because they felt it would be more reassuring to her after all the trauma she has experienced.

After being called by Madison County Animal Control, the two women took Shelby to Horseshoe Lake Animal Hospital in Collinsville, where she underwent a procedure lasting several hours to remove her damaged spleen and to repair four injured areas in her bowel. They transferred her Thursday night to Hawthorne Animal Hospital in Glen Carbon so she could receive 24-hour supervision.

"Right now, we're keeping her on supportive care with antibiotics, fluids and pain medication," Dr. Nathan Jurgena said. "We're watching for further blood loss - she was anemic when she came in last night - as well as complications from the surgery and any signs of infection."

When Shelby came out of surgery Thursday night, Dr. Wendy Mollett of Horseshoe Lake Animal Hospital gave her less than a 50 percent chance of survival.

Jurgena said he felt encouraged by how alert Shelby seemed Friday in spite of the strong narcotic they are administering to her.

"So far, so good," Jurgena said. "She's acting pretty well, considering what she has gone through, but she's not out of the woods yet."

Lee said that she and Spiker have been touched by how many people have reached out to them to offer help.

"If we could package all the hugs and kisses sent her way, it would be amazing," she said. "It's good to know that people care so much."

If all goes well for Shelby, she could be released into foster care as early as today, Jurgena said.

To make a donation to Hope Animal Rescues to help defray Shelby's medical costs, visit www.hoperescues.com.

Spiker estimated that Shelby's medical bills would cost approximately \$2,400.

"Everything we're receiving now will go directly to her care," Lee said. "We're praying and hoping for a good outcome."

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Read more: <http://www.thetelegraph.com/articles/animal-48145-shelby-lee.html#ixzz1dnLFAorj>

